



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Poultry Programs

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were generally unchanged beginning the week. The market tone was steady to at times fully steady. Demand into all channels was moderate to very good. Supplies were adequate to instances tight for current trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were sufficient to occasionally ample for the light demand. Breaking schedules were reduced for the upcoming holiday. Light type fowl were adequate for less than normal processing schedules.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Retail demand remained mostly good for re-fill after the holiday. Food service movement was moderate to fairly good. Supplies were adequate to close. Central states nest run breaking stock prices were too few to report with checks and undergrades unchanged. Demand remained very light for the fully adequate to ample offerings. Schedules were reduced for upcoming holiday. Floor stocks fully adequate. Trade sentiment steady to barely steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	87-96	90-93
LARGE	86-94	87-92
MEDIUM	67-75	70-72

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS

	RANGE
LARGE	69-73
MEDIUM	50-54
SMALL	37-41

MIDWEST AREA: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged when compared to last week's pricing. Trade sentiment was steady to at times fully steady entering the week. Demand ranged moderate to good, with extra eggs ordered to fill in after holiday clearances. Supplies were in close balance to occasionally tight for needs. Breaking stock supplies were sufficient for the light demand. Spent hen offerings were no better than adequate for the fair to moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	93-107	96-99
LARGE	89-104	94-98
MEDIUM	70-85	74-77

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was moderate to good. Food service movement was moderate to fairly good. Supplies were adequate to in close balance. Central states nest run breaking stock prices were too few to report with checks and undergrades unchanged. Demand remained very light for the fully adequate to ample offerings. Schedules were reduced for the upcoming holiday. Floor stocks fully adequate. Trade sentiment steady to barely steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	94.5-103	96-99
LARGE	94.5-103	96-99
MEDIUM	74.5-83	79-79

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Mostly prices were unchanged when compared to previous week. The market tone was steady to fully steady entering the week. Retail and distributive demand was moderate to very good. Supplies were adequate to occasionally tight for immediate trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were sufficient for the light demand. Light type hens were adequate for the fair to moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	95.5-103	97-100
LARGE	94-101	95-98
MEDIUM	72.5-80	73-77

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged on all sizes. The market tone was steady entering the week. Retail and distributive demand was moderate to fairly good. Supplies were closely balanced to at times tight for trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	103-107
LARGE	101-105
MEDIUM	82-86

CHICAGO Prices for all sizes are unchanged. The market tone was fully steady. Retail and food service demand was moderate to good, best where features planned or in progress. Offerings closely balanced.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	92-98
LARGE	91-96
MEDIUM	73-80

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WESTERN Prices unchanged throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 6% lower than last Monday with California down 13% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 6%. Retailer demand slowed. Offerings adequate.

CALIFORNIA Prices unchanged. The California inventory was 13% lower than last Monday. Retailer demand slowed. Offerings adequate. Small benchmark price 86.

*Comment for Dec 24 should have read: Asking prices for next *week* and small benchmark price *86*.

California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	131
EXTRA LARGE	129
LARGE	125
MEDIUM	106

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	289-359	JUMBO	309-389
EXTRA LARGE	289-349	EXTRA LARGE	309-369
LARGE	239-349	LARGE	279-349
MEDIUM	199-299	MEDIUM	229-299

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending January 02, 2004 will decrease by 22 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending December 26, 2003 were 288,692 cases which was 18 percent above the prior week and 9 percent above estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	247,569	41,123	288,692

prior week.....	+18	+19	+18
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Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Nest run prices were too few to report with checks and undergrades unchanged. Due to the holiday last week and this week no trading was reported. Demand remained very light for the fully adequate to ample offerings. Schedules were reduced for the upcoming holiday. Floor stocks fully adequate. Trade sentiment steady to barely steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 AM, MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	TFEWR	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	50-58	52
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate for the about adequate offerings. Processing schedules were reduced due to holiday schedules. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)*
FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 29-DEC-03

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-9 CENTS/LB.	8-9	8.48
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.			

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading levels were generally unchanged from the past week. Demand was moderate for fully adequate supplies of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were slowing. Schedules were reduced. Trade sentiment was about steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)*
FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 29-DEC-03

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-11.5 CENTS/LB.	8.5-9	8.94
*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.			

CANADIAN EGGS -

NO REPORT ISSUED DUE TO OBSERVANCE OF
CANADIAN HOLIDAYS

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-DEC 29, 2003

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

				No Cent	So Cent	So Atl	5-Area Pacific
Jumbo	Curr Wk	6.0	19.0	8.1	14.8	12.4	60.3
	Change	-1.2	2.9	-3.3	0.0	-1.6	-5%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	16.7	48.2	12.7	15.0	25.0	117.6
	Change	-0.3	3.7	1.0	-3.9	-2.7	-2%
Large	Curr Wk	36.7	128.6	83.3	64.8	81.8	395.2
	Change	-3.1	21.7	7.7	-7.8	-16.6	0%
Medium	Curr Wk	9.6	46.0	11.8	27.6	36.4	131.4
	Change	-0.6	9.1	-0.6	5.6	1.6	13%
Small	Curr Wk	2.4	4.7	3.7	3.9	5.9	20.6
	Change	-0.1	-0.2	1.5	-0.1	-0.3	4%
Misc	Curr Wk	5.7	24.1	7.8	19.7	6.7	64.0
	Change	1.2	4.4	-0.8	1.2	0.5	11%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	19.1	38.8	13.7	18.6	35.7	125.9
	Change	0.0	12.5	1.6	3.6	5.6	23%
Total	Curr Wk	96.2	309.4	141.1	164.4	203.9	915.0
Percent	Change	-4%	21%	5%	-1%	-6%	5%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	915.0	5%	171
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	280.0	41%	36
Total Shell Egg	1195.0	12%	207

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 171 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

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TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DECEMBER 26, 2003

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS			
8.00								2.00				10.00			
		SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	76.00	—	76.00	77.50	—	—	2.00	GL W XL	83.00	—	—	—	—	88.25	1.00
GL W J	—	—	88.00	89.00	—	—	1.00	GL W LG	83.00	—	—	—	—	87.75	1.00
GL W XL	—	—	86.50	88.00	—	—	4.00	GL W MD	60.00	—	—	—	—	66.00	1.00

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 12/22/03-12/26/03

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS			
37.25								18.00				55.25			
		SE		NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	75.67	78.67	75.00	77.14	—	71.00	12.00	GNR W 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00
GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	71.00	1.00	GL W XL	75.13	—	—	—	—	83.95	5.25
GNR W 3	—	—	58.00	59.00	56.00	59.00	2.00	GL W LG	77.50	—	—	—	—	84.71	6.75
GNR BR XL	—	—	—	113.00	71.50	75.00	2.25	GL W MD	58.71	—	56.00	—	—	62.82	3.75
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	113.00	—	—	1.50	NRBS - 39	47.00	48.00	—	—	—	—	2.00
GL W J	—	—	88.00	91.00	—	—	1.50								
GL W XL	—	90.00	86.50	86.11	77.33	—	18.75								
GL W LG	89.00	90.00	—	88.67	76.25	85.43	15.00								
GL W MD	69.00	86.00	66.33	68.00	—	—	9.25								
GL W SM	—	—	50.00	52.00	43.00	45.00	2.00								
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	63.00	65.00	11.00								
NRBS - 39	—	—	—	—	—	35.00	1.00								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	12/22/03	12/15/03	12/23/02
PACIFIC COAST	208	86	265
LOS ANGELES	126	481	164

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

UNAVAILABLE

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS The market is steady on all sizes. The supply is adequate to meet the moderate demand.

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MOSTLY

EXTRA LARGE	112.63
LARGE	111.63
MEDIUM	90.63
SMALL	74.00

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OUT OF STATE EGGS - STATE COMPILATION

Report Date: 12/26/2003

Report Period: 12/14/2003 - 12/20/2003

State	Number Cases Shipped to Northern California	Number Cases Shipped to Central California	Number Cases shipped to Southern California	Total State
Arizona	0	0	1,910	1,910
Colorado	0	0	2,595	2,595
Florida	0	0	950	950
Iowa	3,113	5,522	50,069	58,704
Maine	0	0	780	780
Michigan	0	0	1,796	1,796
Minnesota	2,030	280	8,642	10,952
Missouri	0	0	160	160
Nevada	0	0	820	820
New Hampshire	0	0	960	960
Ohio	0	0	2,542	2,542
Oregon	3,116	0	0	3,116
South Dakota	0	1,520	0	1,520
Texas	0	0	600	600
Utah	310	4,440	9,676	14,426
TOTAL	8,569	11,762	81,500	101,831
SHIPPED TO MILITARY	0	0	0	0
SHIPPED TO NONMILITARY	8,569	11,762	81,500	101,831